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A C C O U N T

Of the State of

The French Fleet,

Their Number of Men of War & Fireships,

And the Fortifications that are making on their Coast,

For fear of an

**Invasion from England.**

In a LETTER from a French Merchant at *St. Martias*,  
to his Friend at *London*, July 9. New Stile. 1689.

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20. July. 1689 Licensed, July 12. 1689.

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S I R,

**O**UR Fortifications are almost finished, all the Platforms in the Cittadel, as well as those of the City, are all in a good Posture, with a good Garrison.

Yesterday arrived in this Road a Bark from *Brest*, where she hath left our Fleet in that Bay or Road, consisting of Forty Two great Ships, besides small Frigats, and Twenty Five Fire-ships; and we are sitting still else-where; but how they will be provided with a sufficient number of Sea-men to man them, I cannot tell.

Monfieur *De Tourville*, the Thirteenth past, Sailed from *Thoulon* with Twenty Two Sail of Capital Ships, and Eight Fire-ships, and is every day expected at *Brest*.

The *Marschal D'Estrees* is at *Brest*, and is to go on Board the Fleet, intending to Sail the Fifteenth, to seek out the *English* and *Dutch* Fleets, in order to Fight them: So that we are in expectation to hear of a bloody Engagement. But others say, that *Monfieur De Seignally* goes on Board himself to Command, and not *Marschal D'Estrees*.

We have no Ships left at *Rocheport* (all are fitted out that were there) except one Fire-ship, which waits for a Wind, and some Fly-boats, who have Four or Five Hundred-Men on Board them, for the use of the Fleet.

I was

I was at *Rochel* Four or Five Days ago, and viewed all the Fortifications of that Place, which are very forward, and in a posture of Defence. They have destroyed many Families there, as well as here, by pulling their Houses down to the Ground, that are near the Walls.

We build a Fort at *Bloody-Point*, which is also in a great forwardness; and we talk of building a great one at the *Martreay*, and other Fortifications about the Gates. But I see no likelihood of fear this Summer.

They have caused to march within this Five or Six Days from *Rochel*, towards *Saoneure*, Five or Six Thousand Men, and brought in their room some new Souldiers, raised by the Parishes, within this Three or Four Months, who are to be Disciplined, and supply their Places in the Garrison.

The Fortifications of *Oleroon* are finished, and they have pulled down all the Houses in the Castle.

They work likewise very hard upon the Fortifications at *Brouage*, *Rockfort*, and the *Sheath*, which is the entrance of the River of *Sher-rant*.

A Bark is arrived in *Brittany* since the Twenty Third past, from *Ireland*, which brings Advice, That *London-Derry* holds out still, to our great admiration, that it hath not been relieved or taken all this while.

If once our Fleet returns into our Ports, it will be very difficult to put it to Sea again: For all things are wanting at *Rockefort*, and the Stores as empty as a *Tennis-Court*. And it's said it is the same at *Brest*.

The Rendezvous of all the *French Fleet* is design'd to be at *Belle-Isle*, not far from the mouth of the *Loire* in *Brittany*.

F I N I S.

L O N D O N :  
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